

We claim:

1. A printer, comprising:
  - an inkjet printhead for printing ink;
  - 5 a cap proximate to the inkjet printhead and providing for a sealing of it to prevent drying of unused ink; and
  - an elevator connected to the cap and providing for movement of the cap away from the printhead to allow printing, and allowing for movement to the printhead to allow for sealing and the preventing of ink drying.
- 10 2. The printer of claim 1, wherein:
  - the elevator derives its up and down movement by drawing a movable platform along a set of ramps.
- 15 3. The printer of claim 1, wherein:
  - the elevator includes locks to hold it in its down and away position during printing.
- 20 4. The printer of claim 1, wherein:
  - the elevator occupies an area within a printing zone of the inkjet printhead and thereby provides for a narrower overall width.
- 25 5. The printer of claim 1, further comprising:
  - a rack and pinion gear connected to translate a driveshaft rotation into a lateral motion of a movable plate disposed within the elevator.
- 30 6. The printer of claim 5, further comprising:
  - a set of corner pins and ramps connected to translate said lateral motion of said movable plate into an up and down motion of the elevator.

7. A method of printing, comprising:

providing an inkjet printhead for printing ink;

locating a cap proximate to the inkjet printhead and using it for a seal to prevent drying of unused ink; and

5 operating an elevator connected to the cap for movement of the cap away from the printhead to allow printing, and for movement toward the printhead to allow for sealing and the preventing of ink drying.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein:

10 the operating of the elevator is such that it derives its up and down movement by drawing a movable platform along a set of ramps.

9. The method of claim 7, wherein:

15 the operating of the elevator includes locking it to hold its down and away position during printing.

10. The method of claim 7, wherein:

the operating of the elevator occupies an area within a printing zone of the inkjet printhead and thereby provides for a narrower overall width.  
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11. The method of claim 7, further comprising:

using a rack and pinion gear to translate a driveshaft rotation into a lateral motion of a movable plate disposed within the elevator.

25 12. The method of claim 11, further comprising:

using a set of corner pins and ramps to translate said lateral motion of said movable plate into an up and down motion of the elevator.